CHAPTER XIII

POLITICS[1]

ELECTIONS[2]

A MODIFIED Australian ballot system is in use in the Philippines. The original election law was drafted by Attorney Thomas Gary Welch of the former Executive Bureau. Early in 1907 the law was enacted as Act No. 1582 by the Philippine Commission. The first election under this law was held on July 30, 1907, and included the choice of delegates to the newly provided Philippine Assembly. Repeatedly thereafter, the election law was amended and revamped in an earnest endeavor to attain the unattainable of a perfectly fair and clean election.

Elections are held every three years. Election boards are named by the various municipal councils and the selection of these inspectors and their apportionment between the political parties have caused endless disputes and have necessitated the intervention of the courts. The offices voted for are President, Vice President, Member of the National Assembly, Provincial Governor, two members of the Provincial Board, municipal president, municipal vice president, and a number of municipal councilors—quite a respectable list. The President and Vice President of the Philippine Commonwealth are elected for a term of six years, while the other elective officials are chosen every three years.

The qualifications for voting are stringent.

The method provided for the ascertainment of the popular will is also

[1] This chapter was read by former Senator Jose P. Laurel, one of the authors
of the existing Election Law.
[2] See Jose P. Laurel, *The Election Law* (1931).